

Application No. 09/588,020

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-9, 11 and 13-14 are amended. In particular, claims 1-9, 11 and 13-14 are amended to further clarify the subject matter recited in the claims, and not to distinguish over any applied art. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 1-9, 11 and 13-14 do not narrow the scope of these claims relative to the scope these claims would have been afforded as originally filed.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements because the independent claims do not show "how displaying an image after cut-off of electric power takes place" (Office Action, page 2). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to MPEP 2173.02, "the essential inquiry pertaining to this requirement is whether the claims set out and circumscribe a particular subject matter with a reasonable degree of clarity and particularity. Definiteness of claim language must be analyzed, not in a vacuum, but in light of: the content of the particular application disclosure." Applicant submits that there is no requirement under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph to show, in the claim, how a particular device works. It is only required that the claims define the patentable subject matter with a reasonable degree of particularity and distinctness.

The claimed "plural display devices that each continue to display an image after cutoff of electric power," as recited in claims 1 and 6, are described in some detail in the specification, for example on page 8. These display devices "do not have any power supply for display by themselves. In writing the image information to-be-displayed, they are fed with electric power through the connector array 13. After the image has been written, they are detached from the connector array 13, and they can keep the display of the image despite the cutoff of electric power." (See specification, page 8.) Furthermore, examples of such display

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devices are also given on page 8, as "a ferroelectric liquid-crystal display device, a cholesteric liquid-crystal display device or an electrophoretic display device." Applicant respectfully submits that in analyzing the claim language in light of the content of the specification, the claims are not indefinite. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 4,760,388 to Tatsumi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Tatsumi teaches displaying pictures on screens A, B and C, each of which is an individually operating displaying unit 1a, 1b and 1c, respectively. Applicant submits that Tatsumi does not disclose "plural display devices that each continue to display an image after cutoff of electric power," as recited in claims 1 and 6. In Tatsumi, the display elements are cathode ray tube (CRT) screens (see Tatsumi col. 1, lines 26-29), which must be driven by electrical current at all times in order to display information. Therefore, the CRT screens are not display devices that each continue to display an image after cutoff of electric power.

For at least this reason, Tatsumi fails to teach or disclose every feature of claims 1, 3, 6 and 8. Applicant respectfully requests therefore, that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 4-5, 7 and 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Tatsumi in view of U.S. Patent 5,583,539 to Hiketa. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action admits that Tatsumi does not disclose a system where a display means are detachably attached to the information sending means. The Office Action then asserts that Hiketa teaches an item selection input apparatus including IC cards which are inserted in slots for reading out display data. Applicant submits, however, that although the

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IC cards are detachable, they are not equivalent to, or even remotely similar to, the claimed display devices. Such IC cards merely store the data to be displayed on a display device (see Hiketa, col. 10, lines 52-56.) Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Hiketa nor Tatsumi, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests that it is the display device that is detachably attached to the information sending means, as recited in claims 2 and 7.

Furthermore, Hiketa does not disclose or suggest "plural display devices that each continue to display an image after cutoff of electric power." Hiketa discloses only a single display device, as disclosed, for example, at col. 2, lines 11-13, which states that the "item input screen 32 comprises a liquid crystal display device (LCD) for selectively displaying one out of a plurality of pictures." Therefore, Hiketa does not remedy the deficiency of Tatsumi with respect to claims 1-14.

Therefore, claims 1-14, recite patentable subject matter for at least the reasons outlined above with respect to claims 1 and 6. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 2, 4-5, 7 and 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-14 are earnestly solicited.

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Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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